

case of ulcer has the right to ambulatory treatment at the outset, by proper diet and by alkaline medication, without loss of time from work and without loss of weight and efficiency; with the understanding that most of them on such a plan get rid of their symptoms and do as well as after more energetic measures.

These conclusions are the result of a good many years of personal experience, are generally accepted as correct by those who have the most experience; and are only repeated now because there seems to be so many who are not yet familiar with them.

WILLIAM FITCH CHENEY.

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## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO \*

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. III, No. 7, July 1905

*From some editorial notes:*

*State Journals.*—With July, two new state society journals will make their appearance; the medical associations of Ohio and Texas have recently so voted. We shall be very glad to welcome these journals when they appear, and we certainly extend to them every good wish for long, successful and upright lives. . . .

*The Rules of the Council.*—By a curious coincidence, two items were received in the office of the journal within the hour. One was a copy of the *Journal A. M. A.* for June 3, and the other was a box containing what appears to be several original packages of a medicinal preparation known as *sal hepatica*. . . . The journal mentioned contains the advertisement of *sal hepatica*, in which it is recommended for the treatment of typhoid fever, etc.; so it evidently is regarded as a medicine. The nearest approach to a formula is, "*Sal hepatica* is composed of the chemically pure salts which analysis has shown to be present in the most celebrated purgative, '*Bitter Waters*,' of Europe." The names or the quantities of these salts are matters left to the imagination. . . .

*From an article on "The Use of Hyoscin Hydrobromate in the Treatment of the Morphin Habit, With Report of Cases" by R. E. Bering, M. D., Tulare.*

When we read the various textbooks on the treatment of the morphin habit, written by some of the ablest men in the country, and endeavor to carry out the plan of treatment suggested, it is no wonder so few physicians in general practice ever undertake to free their unfortunate patients from this dreaded curse, with all its accompanying nervous manifestations, collapse, oftentimes death, and suffering that no words can describe. . . .

*From an article on "Uncinariasis in California, Based on Observation of Sixty-Two Cases" by Herbert Gunn, M. D., San Francisco.*

The reasons which prompted the writer to investigate the subject under consideration were that during the year 1904 he encountered, comparatively speaking, a somewhat unusual number of cases of uncinariasis, in the ordinary course of practice and in his service in Doctor Hirschfelder's wards of the City and County Hospital of San Francisco, and that he became aware of the fact that quite a number of Porto Ricans were located in this state. The belief that the disease was being overlooked, and that a somewhat extensive importation had occurred, was found upon investigation to be justified.

Only two years ago it was stated that only thirty-eight cases of uncinariasis had been reported in the United States. Since that date many cases have been

found to be endemic in many of the southern states, as far west as Texas. . . .

*From an article on "A Case of Human Glanders" by William Fitch Cheney, M. D., San Francisco.*

. . . I have tried to secure some statistics as to the incidence of human glanders in California, but can find none. The secretary of the State Board of Health, in reply to my inquiry, writes me that the board has no statistics on the subject, and there seems to be no way to discover in how many instances human glanders has been assigned as a cause of death in the state. . . .

*From medical society reports:*

*Monterey County.*—To His Excellency, George C. Pardee: At a regular meeting of the Monterey County Medical Society, held at Monterey on April 1, 1905, the following was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The medical profession is honored by having one of our esteemed members the Governor of our fair state; and

Whereas, He has safely piloted the California ship of state with flying colors through two legislative tempests—his course being marked patriotism, sound judgment and loyalty to his beloved profession; and

Whereas, His recent act in vetoing the vicious anti-vaccination bill, and his unanswerable logic in defense of that action, shows us that he is "not only George C. Pardee, but Doctor Pardee, a physician of integrity"; be it

Resolved, By the Monterey County Medical Society that we heartily commend the action of Governor George C. Pardee in thus guarding the health, wealth and reputation of our state; and be it further

Resolved, That we consider that the further and continued service of Doctor Pardee in the gubernatorial chair will safeguard the best interests of both our state and profession, and to that end we give him our best wishes; and be it further

Resolved, That our secretary be hereby instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to Governor Pardee, to the *California State Journal of Medicine*, and the local press, and that a copy be placed upon our books.

D. BRUMWELL, Secretary.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By W. M. DICKIE, Director

**Many Adults Anxiously Seek Birth Certificates.**—

With the great stimulus that has been given to travel in foreign countries, the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State Department of Public Health has experienced a great rush in the demand for certified copies of certificates of birth. These are desired by individuals who wish to secure passports and who desire to secure certified copies of their birth certificates as evidence of their citizenship to facilitate the securing of such passports.

Individuals who were born in California since July of 1905, when the state registration of vital statistics began, have little or no trouble in securing copies of their birth certificates, but individuals who were born before that time are experiencing great difficulty in securing evidence of birth. Many such individuals have just come to a full realization of the importance of the birth certificate as a legal document, and many of them have petitioned the superior court of the county in which they were born to establish fact of birth. This is an expensive procedure for most people and it emphasizes again the importance of securing the registration at time of birth of every birth that may occur.

Among the important proofs which are supplied by the evidence presented in birth certificates are proofs of age, citizenship, inheritance rights, and lineage.

\* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.